IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims, in the Application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously amended) A method of improving performance in a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising the steps of:

    determining whether data being processed is network data; and

    transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

2. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the data holding device is a buffer.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

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6.   (Previously amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for improving performance of a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising:

code means for determining whether data being processed is network data; and

code means for transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

7.   (Previously amended) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein the data holding device is a buffer.

8.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

9.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

10. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

11. (Previously amended) An apparatus for improving performance of a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising:

means for determining whether data being processed is network data; and

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means for transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

12.   (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the data holding device is a buffer.

13.   (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

14.   (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

16.   (Previously amended) A multiprocessor system having means for improving performance comprising:

at least one memory device to store code data; and

using one of the processors for processing the code data to determine whether data being processed is network data and to transact, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

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17.   (Previously amended) The multiprocessor system of Claim 16 wherein the data holding device is a buffer.

18.   (Original) The multiprocessor system of Claim 17 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

19.   (Original) The multiprocessor system of Claim 18 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

20.   (Original) The multiprocessor system of Claim 19 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

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